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Phone: 651/733-1189 (direct)
Fax: 651/736-7421
Serial No.: CPA of 09/425,636
Our Reference: 55197US002

OFFICIAL

Date: May 23, 2002

Total number of pages: 9

Enclosed is a **Preliminary Amendment** for the following patent application:

Application of: Douglas Quong

CPA of Serial Number: 09/425,636

Filed: March 6, 2002

Title: Active Material Within Hydrogel Microbeads

Please transmit the Preliminary Amendment to the following Examiner:

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 1617

Examiner Nguyen, this is the Preliminary Amendment that was originally faxed on March 29, 2002 (see copies of fax confirmations).

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3M OIPC 651 737 9136 03/29/02 20:42:54 NO.269 08/09

Please transmit the Preliminary Amendment to the following Examiner:

Title: Active Material Within Hydrogel Microspheres

Filed: March 6, 2002

CPA of Serial Number: 09/429,636

Applicant: Laughlin Quam

Enclosed is a Preliminary Amendment for the following patent application:

Date: March 29, 2002

Total number of pages: 6

Our Address: 55197C/9002

Serial No.: CPA of 09/429,636

Pat: 651/737-7431

Phone: 651/737-1100 (toll-free)

3M Innovative Properties Company

(Office of Intellectual Property Counsel)

Telephone: Larry C. Walker

Telefax: 651/737-7431

Washington, D.C. 20231

To the attention of

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Enclosed is a Preliminary Amendment for the following patent application:

Application of: Douglas Quong

CPA of Serial Number: 09/425,636

Filed: March 6, 2002

Title: Active Material Within Hydrogel Microbeads

Please transmit the Preliminary Amendment to the following Examiner:

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 1617

Total number of pages: 6

Date: March 29, 2002

Telefax from: Lucy C. Welas
 Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
 3M Innovative Properties Company
 Phone: 651/733-1189 (direct)
 Fax: 651/736-7421
 Serial No.: CPA of 09/425,636
 Our Reference: 55197US002

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PATENT
Docket No.: 55197US002**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Douglas Quong

Serial No.: 09/425,636

Filed: October 22, 1999

CPA Filed: March 6, 2002

Group Art Unit: 1617

Examiner: Nguyen, H.

FAX RECEIVED**MAY 23 2002****GROUP 1600**For: ACTIVE MATERIAL WITHIN HYDROGEL MICROBEADS**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

DATE(S)	
DOCKETED BY	LCW pre

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims

Please amend Claim 1 to read as follows:

- C1
1. (twice amended) A method of delivering and releasing active material comprising the steps of:
- a) providing hydrogel microbeads each comprising a plurality of active material droplets entrained within a hydrophilic matrix that is cured non-chemically at temperatures in the range of about 10°C to about 40°C or that is cured chemically, said microbeads having an average diameter between about 1 µm to about 1000 µm;
 - b) creating a suspension of a plurality of said microbeads;

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date shown below:

Date:

March 29, 2002

Signed:

Lucy C. Weiss

Lucy C. Weiss, Reg. No. 32,834